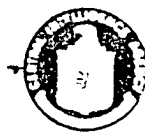


Central Intelligence Agency



Washington, D.C. 20505

OLL 84-3186

9 JUL 1984

The Honorable Thomas N. Kindness
House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Mr. Kindness:

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This letter is in response to your request at the 10 May hearing on H.R. 5164 for additional information on the number of senior Agency personnel involved in the processing of Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) requests. Within the Agency, there are [] individuals at the level of GS-15 or above who spend at least 25 percent of their time working on FOIA or Privacy Act requests, and [] individuals at that level who spend somewhat less than 25 percent of their time dealing with FOIA or Privacy Act requests.

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As we said in our testimony, one of our greatest concerns has been that experienced intelligence officers in the Directorate of Operations (DO), which is the unit within the Central Intelligence Agency (CIA) responsible for the clandestine collection of foreign intelligence and counterintelligence, must be diverted away from their primary task of collecting foreign intelligence in order to help process FOIA requests. When a FOIA request is received, it is initially handled by the Information and Privacy Division of the Directorate of Administration. That office causes records searches to be made in those Agency components likely to have records responsive to the request. Within the DO, a unit known as [] is responsible for the processing of all FOIA and Privacy Act requests within the DO. That component has [] employees, of which [] are full-time professionals, [] are part-time professionals, [] are rehired annuitants, and the remainder are clericals. The individuals in this component are responsible for initiating searches within the DO for documents responsive to a FOIA request and reviewing those documents to determine whether the documents contain classified information. However,

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the final determination regarding the releasability of DO information must be left to those intelligence officers within those components of the DO that have the substantive responsibility for the subject matter contained in the document under review. The primary responsibility of those officers is to support intelligence officers in the field who are clandestinely gathering foreign intelligence and counter-intelligence and they must thus be diverted away from this vital task in order to determine whether the initial classification review of the documents [] was done properly. There are at least [] intelligence officers within the DO, [] of which are GS-15's or above, who are personally involved in the review of documents referred by []. After the documents have been reviewed by intelligence officers within the DO, they are sent back to the Information and Privacy Division for final packaging and transmittal to the requester.

I hope you find the above information useful, and if there is any additional information you need, please contact me at your convenience.

Sincerely,

/s/Charles A. Briggs

Charles A. Briggs
Director, Office of Legislative Liaison

OLL:LEG:DMP:sm (6 July 1984)

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